

HLA Happenings

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Children's Book Authors to Be Featured in National ASLA Webinar



After the children's illustrated book on Indiana Native Plants ([Monsters Love Native Blooms](#)) was officially included in ASLA's initiative, "STEM Literacy by Design," ASLA invited the authors to a national webinar to discuss their reflections and inspirations regarding the journey. They will be featured in the 2nd Meet the Authors: STEM Literacy by Design series, hosted virtually on Thursday, August 29, 1:30 pm. Participants need to register at <https://bit.ly/3yzU776>.

Drawing on their coursework in native plants and design, the authors

will discuss how they infused their passion for landscape architecture into a fun, creative work of literary art and offer tips for writing children's books. Presenting authors include Assistant Professor **Yiwei Huang**, recent HLA graduates **Chloe Kennedy**, **Kayla Kramer**, **Autumn McNinch**, **Molly Wimberg**, and **Wanting Zhang**. Learn more about the webinar series at <https://bit.ly/3SHAW1W>.

HLA Department Hosts Insightful Fall Retreat



On August 14, the HLA Department gathered for its annual Fall Retreat at the Beck Center, focusing this year on enhancing support for students. Dean Bernie Engel provided an update on the current state of the College of Agriculture, setting the stage for a day of learning and discussion.

Speakers included Carl Krieger, Director of Resident Education; Steven Yeagley, Associate Dean of Students, Crisis Management; Mandie Greiwe and Taylor Haville from the Disability Resource Center; and Devon Moore, Social Service & Crisis Response Specialist with the West Lafayette Police. They shared valuable insights on their roles in student well-being.

Following these presentations, attendees engaged in small group discussions to reflect on the information shared and explore strategies for improving support for HLA students. The retreat underscored the department's commitment to fostering a supportive and responsive educational environment.

This Week at the Purdue Student Farm



BLACK WEEK

Hello! Our resident rabbit catcher/freelance writer, Jane, has left us defenseless, so it's Nellie here, back in action after a brief sojourn to stress my way through summer finals - I apparently picked an eventful couple weeks to be away. I missed the beginning of sweet corn season, a deer corpse, and DNR aquariums! Terrible!



We've made it to week 8 of the CSA with half of August behind us. It's also the final week before the fall semester begins, and we've all gotten a bit spoiled with how quiet campus has been up until now. Speculation as to whether Cherry Lane will ever be open again runs rampant. The potatoes have died back, which means Chris gets to pull out the potato harvester (his best friend), and that I must psychically prepare myself for sorting through a bin of 16 100ft rows worth of potatoes any thinking about rotting. We've just done a large harvest of carrots this morning, and root knot nematodes are still hanging around what was our tomato tunnel from last season which hurt end of season production. Luckily, only a small portion of carrots seem to be affected, and while it's a problem, their growth patterns make for a pretty unusual visual.

This is very much a transition point in the season, with some of the big blocks of crops (you guys have no idea how many onions came out of that field) starting to be phased out for the next set of plantings or cover crops. An apt change as most of the interns return to classes, you know? Feels like once the summer squash gives up the ghost you've really passed the turning point of summer. Even if the coneflowers are

dying back, the wetland is at its most showy this time of year, host to swamp milkweed, black eyed Susan, and ironweed in spades, as well as the odd visiting flock of birds, who tend to cycle between it, the sun hemp and the buckwheat. Toads and leopard frogs have been frequent sights in the high tunnels; they seem to really like the low foliage with carrots. Goldfinches have been active in the herb garden and they're near enough to the back porch that you can catch some of their less frequent vocalizations. They've got some fancy songs! As you can guess, Merlin gets a lot of use out here.



STATE FAIR SPOTLIGHT (by Emily Earnshaw):



Last Thursday we all went to the state fair for a both educational yet fun “field trip”. I go to the state fair almost every year, so I was excited to do it with most of the farm staff. We saw all of the animals and did as many of the stops as possible. We loved seeing the draft horses and I even stayed later to see the draft horse show. We made our way through pioneer village for the free tastes of maple syrup and maple cream. We of course admired the large tractors and many agricultural exhibits. In the glass barn we played a child’s game dedicated to soy and learned how many things soy is an ingredient in. While the point was to emphasize the importance and versatility of soy, as SFS majors we also mused over the impacts of such a reliance on soy and how its demand can help keep farmers in monoculture and industrial agriculture. We ended as a group with the DNR building to see how many fish we could identify and watch the flood exhibit that I have always enjoyed every year at the fair. I was able to see the cheese sculpture at the mercantile and the art building later in the day and always enjoy both thoroughly. We all had our fill of fried food and fun and can’t wait for next year’s fair.

DCB Team Hosted Reimagining Agricultural Diversity Meeting



The **Diverse Corn Belt** Team (Dr. **Linda Prokopy**, Dr. **Aaron Thompson**, Dr. **Liz Maynard**, PhD student **Ishraq Awashra**, and Project manager **Emily Usher-DeaKyne**) had another successful Reimagining Agricultural Diversity meeting at Dulls Tree Farm in Thorntown, Indiana. Great conversations about the future of agriculture across the Midwest!

Gomez Lab Visited Henry Mast Greenhouses and Walters Gardens



Dr. **Celina Gomez** and her lab members, along with colleagues from the University of Florida, visited Henry Mast Greenhouses and Walters Gardens this week.

Yiwei Huang Contributed to Two New Publications

This summer, two of **Yiwei Huang**’s co-authored/contributed articles were published.

In 2022-2023, Yiwei Huang collaborated with Dr. Weijie Hu, whom she met at the 2020 AAG conference, to write an article exploring whether place attachment can be formed in Public Rental Housing in China. The article has now been published in *Urban Geography*:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02723638.2024.2362507>

In fall 2023 and spring 2024, Yiwei Huang worked with a few landscape architecture professors across the country and globe who teach planting design, and put together an article examining the new trajectory of environmental design education based on the barriers of knowledge dissemination between academia and practice. The article is published through *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13467581.2024.2373836>

HLA Grad Student Inspires Digital Ag Club's First Robot



Purdue Agriculture featured a story about the debut of Digital Ag Club's first robot at Boiler Gold Rush. The robot was inspired by **Jeanine Arana's** (Ph.D./Meyers Lab) struggles with animal pests in her research plots: [Digital Ag Club's Scarecrow-bot making its debut at Boiler Gold Rush](#).



Wenjing Guan Participated in Two Events in August

Wenjing Guan participated at the Red Gold Field Day in Alexandria, IN on August 1.

She also participated at the North American Strawberry Growers Summer Tour in Massachusetts and Connecticut on August 13 and 14.

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Celebrating a New Citizen!



During the HLA Fall Retreat, we celebrated **Kranthi Varala** becoming a US citizen. Congratulations Kranthi!

Purdue Hydroponics and Greenhouse Crop Production Webinar Series

Purdue Hydroponics and Greenhouse Crop Production Webinar Series (2024)

Registration is free

Register here for all webinars: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e5UHHPj4UtdQOQK

1. Nutrient Management in Recycling Hydroponic Systems (April 15, noon to 1 pm)
2. Temperature Management (Summer/ Winter) in Greenhouses (May 15, noon to 1 pm)
3. Organic Lettuce Production in Hydroponic Systems (June 12, noon to 1 pm)
4. How to Build an Indoor Hydroponic Production System for Homes and Schools (Aug 21, noon to 1 pm)
5. Fundamentals of Soilless Substrates for Floriculture Crop Production (Sep 18, noon to 1 pm)

Purdue Controlled Environment Agriculture Research & Extension

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Register for the Purdue Hydroponics and Greenhouse Crop Production Webinar Series.

Newsletters:

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Purdue Landscape Report: <https://www.purduelandscapeport.org>